

News for Faculty – Friday, October 27, 2023

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Penn State Faculty Digest

The Faculty Digest provides faculty and instructors with relevant news and information about programs and resources that promote faculty success. Watch for these emails on the last Friday of every month (or earlier when there is a campus closure).

LATEST NEWS

A Message from the Office of Research Protections

Now that the semester is underway, we know everyone is busy teaching, researching, working with students, and attending conferences. Some of those activities might require disclosure if they are done outside of Penn State. Not sure if what you're doing requires disclosure? The Office for Research Protections has new resources to help! All of these resources and more are available on our [website](#).

- See our [Disclosure Guide](#) for a quick breakdown of common activities and disclosure requirements.
- View a [short video](#) (under 10 minutes) that outlines faculty disclosure requirements at Penn State.
- Attend a [15-minute Zoom webinar](#).

Faculty Senate October Meeting Recap

At its [Oct. 17 meeting](#), the Faculty Senate heard updates on the University's strategic planning process and from the Board of Trustees leadership on their priorities and areas of focus. The Senate also passed legislation revising its standing rules of procedure and bylaws.

Tenured and Promoted Faculty Honored

Recently tenured and promoted faculty across the University were honored Oct. 2 through Penn State's [Promotion and Tenure Recognition Program](#). As part of that tradition, each newly tenured or promoted faculty member is asked to select a book title for the University Libraries' permanent collection and to submit a personal statement explaining why they chose that book.

Non-Tenure-Line Faculty Promotions Celebrated

Penn State celebrated the promotions of [teaching, research, clinical, and library faculty who received promotions](#) during an Oct. 6 event. This year's event was sponsored by the Office of the Executive Vice President and hosted by the Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence and Office of the Senior Vice President for Research.

Activity Insight Topic of the Month

Is your past Alternate Assessment of Teaching Effectiveness data not appearing in your Dossier? Chances are you still have it entered in the old screen. In December of 2022 the Faculty Activity Management Services (FAMS) team created a screen specifically

designed for Promotion and Tenure and one for Annual Reviews. If you need help moving the data to the correct screen, email the FAMS team at ai-support@psu.edu with the information that should be moved and they would be happy to assist.

Assessment of Teaching Effectiveness News

1. The Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence has created a website that provides an overview of Penn State's approach to assessment of teaching effectiveness [here](#). You can also read the Penn State news story about the new [Faculty Teaching Assessment Framework](#).
2. Penn State has a new instrument for gathering end-of-course student feedback. Effective fall 2023, the [Student Educational Experience Questionnaire \(SEEQ\)](#) will be administered to students during weeks 12-14 of the semester to collect student feedback. Thus, annual reviews for 2023 will include both SRTE and SEEQ data.
3. All faculty are required to submit a self-reflection of about 1,000 words focused on their teaching as part of their annual review materials. Faculty will be able to submit these self-reflections via Activity Insight.

Procedures for Winter Weather Cancellations

In the event of a change in normal campus operations due to weather or an emergency, in-person courses cannot, except in extenuating circumstances, be moved to a synchronous remote meeting, per Faculty Senate Policy [45-00](#). View the full article about winter weather procedures [here](#).

Reminder re: Flu, COVID Vaccines

Now is the time for Penn State employees to protect themselves and those around them by [getting the flu and COVID-19 vaccination](#). The University strongly encourages all employees to take the time to receive these vaccines this fall. There are many opportunities for employees throughout the commonwealth to receive their vaccinations. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends an annual flu vaccination for anyone six months of age and older, with some exceptions. A [new COVID-19 vaccine](#) is starting to appear at pharmacies around the U.S. Approved and authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in mid-September, everyone ages six months and older is eligible to receive it.

Faculty Passing

Ryan Russell, associate professor of graphic design in the College of Arts & Architecture's Stuckeman School, passed away on October 23 after a prolonged illness. His [children's book](#), "My Annoying, Irritating, Always-in-the-way Shadow," has been published by Harriman House and will be released on Dec. 12.

FACULTY OPPORTUNITIES

Case study resource

"A Case Study--Issues in Freedom of Expression: Campus Speech and Penn State University"

<https://sites.psu.edu/teachengagement/campus-speech-and-penn-state-university/>

Canvas module (Use this link after logging into Canvas. Or, in Canvas, search for “Issues in Freedom of Expression” in “Commons” to find the course.)

<https://lor.instructure.com/resources/a18c5ce9ec824e35a181ad441838796f?shared>

The case study on this site was created for instructors to use in their courses to help introduce concepts of free speech on campus in the context of real-life events. It focuses on the situation last October, when Penn State’s registered student group, Uncensored America, invited speakers Alex Stein and Gavin McInnes to University Park campus. The case study was created by faculty from the College of the Liberal Arts, Department of Communication Arts and Sciences, and Communication Arts and Sciences faculty from Penn State Berks, working in collaboration with the Office for General Education, as part of the Faculty Scholars civic engagement cohort.

Faculty and Staff Achievement Award Nominations

The [Faculty and Staff Achievement Awards](#) recognize the efforts of faculty and staff who go beyond their basic duties to bring about positive and lasting change to the University and/or to the community. To submit a nomination or learn more about the awards, visit the [FSAA webpages](#).

President’s Award for Excellence in Academic Integration

Nominations are being accepted for the [2024 President’s Award for Excellence in Academic Integration](#), an honor recognizing faculty members at the rank of professor who have exhibited extraordinary achievement in the integration of teaching, research or creative accomplishments, and service. Nominations are being solicited from the academic deans and should include evidence of all criteria, including superior teaching, research or creative accomplishments, and service to the University, public, and/or profession. The deadline is January 5, 2024. For more information, call Ann Clements at 814-863-7494 or email acc13@psu.edu.

Penn State Laureate

The University is seeking nominees for the role of [2024-25 Penn State Laureate](#), with nominations due by Friday, December 8. The endowed annual position of Penn State Laureate was established in 2008 to bring greater visibility to the arts and humanities and the honoree’s work and to enrich the University. Self-nominations are welcome and can be submitted via vpfa@psu.edu by December 8.

Rosemary Schraer Mentoring Award

Nominations are currently being accepted for the [Rosemary Schraer Mentoring Award](#). The award is presented each year to a University employee who exemplifies Schraer’s giving of herself as a mentor and who has voluntarily helped others recognize and achieve their potential. Submit nominations [here](#). Submissions will be accepted until 5 p.m. on Friday, December 8.

EVENTS AND TRAINING

Mentorship Training Workshops

Registration is open for upcoming [mentorship training workshops](#) for Penn State faculty. The workshops are designed to equip faculty members with the tools and skills to foster effective mentorship of undergraduate and graduate students and postdoctoral scholars in the research setting. Faculty members interested in participating in these workshops should register at no cost through the [Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs website](#). Early registration is recommended, as spaces are limited.

Brown Bag on Revising Your Undergraduate Curriculum

Those looking to minimize barriers for students, have assessment results to address, or are considering updating major requirements or creating a new program are invited to attend a free, [brown-bag session on how to revise undergraduate curriculums](#).

Participants can bring their lunch on Oct. 31 from noon to 2 p.m. in room 102 of the Kern Graduate Building or attend via Zoom.

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities for Teaching

- The Schreyer Institute for Teaching Excellence (SITE), Penn State's university-wide teaching center offers a variety of services and programs. All instructors are welcome to request a [teaching consultation](#) with a faculty consultant. Instructors may be particularly interested in these events and resources:
 - Request a workshop on any teaching topic or choose from these [commonly requested topics](#)
 - [Addressing Course Disruptions in the Moment](#) (resources)
 - [Election Day Asynchronous Instruction Guidance](#) (resource)
 - Do you have questions about the new student feedback instrument ([SEEQ](#)) or how to prepare for the [self-reflection](#) expected for your faculty annual review for 2023? Contact us at site@psu.edu.
- Penn State's [Teaching and Learning with Technology](#) (TLT) units, [Creative Learning Initiatives](#), [IT Learning and Development](#), and the [Learning Design Team](#), offer workshops, programs, and individual consultations for faculty looking to enhance their teaching and learning through technology.
- SITE and TLT offer many continuous learning opportunities and professional development resources for Penn State faculty: [Faculty Professional Development Opportunities - Continuously Updated.docx](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To obtain comprehensive, updated information at any time, please review:

- The Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs [website](#)
- The University's comprehensive [COVID-19 resources](#)
- Previous issues of this [Digest](#)